Maharashtra Circle of Postal Department

206. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra circle of the Department of Post has projected a turnover of Rs. 550 crore during 2007-08 fiscal from its various business propositions across Maharashtra and Goa;

(b) whether the Department earned a revenue of Rs. 400 crore during 2006-07 fiscal and has targeted an increase in the revenue by more than 25 per cent;

(c) whether in order to achieve a target of Rs. 550 crore, the Department has set product-wise, month-wise goals and designed strategies to meet these targets; and

(d) whether the Department proposes to extend the service to all other branches in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Maharashtra Postal Circle has projected a revenue target to Rs. 550 crores from business products like Speed Post, Express Parcel Post, Business Post, Bill Mail Service etc. for the year 2007-08 against its achievement of Rs. 416.66 crores revenue from these products during 2006-07. The circle has also worked out a Business Plan for the year 2007-08. These products and services are provided in various post offices in the State. These services are extended as needed taking into account market requirements, customer needs, expected business, transport facilities available etc.

Telecom License Rules

207. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the Indian Telecom Rules, a company holding a telecom license in one licensed area is not allowed to own more than 9.9 per cent of another phone firm;

(b) whether Government is aware that Reliance Communications Ltd. (R. Com.) is holding more than 9.9 per cent stake in Swan Telecom Pvt. Ltd., thus violating the Indian Telecom Rules; and

(c) if so, the details of share holding pattern of Swan Telecom Pvt. Ltd., on the date of grant of license for rolling out operations in 22 Telecom areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As per guidelines dated 14.12.2005 for grant of Unified Access Services (UAS) Licences,

"No single company/legal person, either directly or through its associates, shall have substantial equity holding in more than one LICENSEE Company in the same service area for the Access Services namely; Basic, Cellular and unifted Access Service. 'Substantial equity' herein will mean 'an equity of 10% or more'. A promoter company/ legal person cannot have stakes in more than one LICENSEE Company for the same service area."

(b) As reported by the company, M/s Reliance Communications Ltd. does not hold any paid up equity in M/s Swan Telecom Pvt. Ltd.

(c) M/s. Swan Telecom Pvt. Ltd. does not hold any UAS Licence as on date. However, the company has been issued 13 letters of Intent for award of UAS licences in 13 service areas. According to the share holding pattern reported by the company as on 13.12.2007, M/s. Tiger Trustee Pvt. Holds 90.1% and M/s. Delphi Investment Ltd. Holds 9.9% paid up equity shares in M/s Swan Telecom Pvt. Ltd.

Postal Development Corporation

208. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to set up Postal Development Corporation (PDC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the activities of the PDC after formation;

(d) whether PDC will be set up as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for commercial development of real estate; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and total land available with Postal Development with estimated value of such land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, a proposal has been submitted to the Cabinet for setting up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for optimum development and management of postal estates.

(e) As per the information available in November, 2007, Department of Posts had 1871 plots lying vacant, total area of which is 38224902 sq. ft. Estimated value of this land is Rs. 65481.02 lakh approximately.

Creation of USO Fund from Telephone Operators

†209. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that USO fund of fifteen thousand crore has been created out of the money received from various telephone operators;

(b) the amount spent out of the USO funds during the last five years; and

(c) the names of projects which were financed out of this fund and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 14,998 crore has been collected as universal Service Obligation (USO) Levy from all the telecom service providers during the financial years 2002-03 to 2006-07 and deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI). Out of this, an amount of Rs. 5,081.44 crore has been transferred to Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) through Parliamentary approval during the period from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and spent on various schemes under USOF during this period.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.